

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 USC §121:

Group I: claims 1-23 and 25-39 are drawn to a method of increasing the expression levels of a Neisseria PorA protein or polypeptide in a host cell.

Group II: claims 24, 40-43 are drawn to an isolated porA protein or polypeptide and compositions comprising said polypeptides.

Group III: claim 44 is drawn to a method for identifying Neisseria polynucleotides encoding porA proteins/polypeptides which are expressed at low levels in a host cell.

Group IV: claims 45-47 are drawn to an isolated polynucleotide.

Group V: claim 48 is drawn to a method for identifying Neisseria polynucleotides encoding porA proteins/polypeptides which are expressed at low levels in a host cell.

Group VI: claims 49-51 are drawn to an isolated polynucleotide.

Group VII: claims 52-53, 55 and 56 are drawn to a method for increasing the expression levels of a Neisseria porA polypeptide or protein comprising obtaining a mature Neisseria polypeptide sequence, determining the triplet sequence at codon 17 and replacing it with a codon other than ATC.

Group VIII: claims 54, 59 and 60 are drawn to an isolated polynucleotide.

Group IX: claims 61, 62, 64 and 65 are drawn to a method for increasing the expression levels of a Neisseria porA proteins/polypeptides which are expressed at low levels in a host cell.

Group XI: claims 63, 68 and 69 are drawn to an isolated polynucleotide.

Group XI: claims 70 and 71, 73 and 74 are drawn to a method for increasing the expression levels of a Neisseria porA protein/polypeptide.

Group XII: claims 72, 77 and 78 are drawn to an isolated polynucleotide.

Group XIII: claims 75 and 76 are drawn to an isolated polypeptide.

Group XIV: claims 79, 80, 82 and 83 are drawn to another method of increasing the expression levels of a Neisseria PorA protein or polypeptide

Group XV: claims 81, 86 and 87 are drawn to an isolated polynucleotide.

Group XVI: claims 84 and 85 are drawn to an isolated polypeptide.

Group XVII: claims 88 and 89 are drawn to a method of immunization using SEQ ID NO:2.

Group XVIII: claims 90 and 91 are drawn to a method of immunization using SEQ ID NO:4.

Group XIX: claims 92 and 93 are drawn to a method of immunization using SEQ ID NO:14

Group XX: claims 94 and 95 are drawn to a method of immunization using SEQ ID NO:16.

Group XXI: claims 96 and 97 are drawn to a method of immunization using SEQ ID NO:25.

Group XXII: claims 98-101 are drawn to a method of immunization with a multivalent composition comprising SEQ ID NOS.: 2, 4, 14, 16, 25 or fragments thereof.


Group XXIII: claim 102 is drawn to an immunogenic composition.

Responsive the Requirement for Restriction, Applicants elect group 1 without traverse. Applicant also elects polynucleotide SEQ ID NO. 1 and it's corresponding amino acid SEQ ID NO. 2 without traverse. However, Applicants traverse the restriction among Groups 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 16 and respectfully assert that the groups comprise a single technical feature, namely as modified Por A proteins produced by the methods described in the captioned application and the modified nucleotide sequences encoding therefore. Likewise, Applicants traverse the restriction of groups 17-22 and respectfully assert that these groups all comprise the technical feature of immunizing by administering to a host the recited composition.

Applicant reserves the right to file a continuing application directed to the non-elected subject matter.

The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this response or application.

Respectfully,



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